(b) whether the issue of huge expenditure incurred by the neighbouring countries on the Department of Defence is being ignored by the Government: and

(c) the steps likely to be taken by Government to equip the army with modernised aircrafts. weapons etc.. to meet the security thereof by neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) The requirement of funds is projected by the Ministry of Defence to the Ministry of Finance, which decides on the actual allocation for the year. keeping in view the overall availability of national resources. national security and the requirements of different sectors. Ministry of Defence had projected a requirement of Rs.31925.61 crores for Defence allocation for the year 1996-97 against which the allocation presented by the Finance Minister in the Budget 1996-97 provides Rs.27819 crores for Defence.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Having regard to the developments in the neighbouring countries. all efforts are being made to equip the Army with the required equipment and weapon systems to meet our security concerns.

[English]

Laws for the Use of Basin River Water

2913. SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a law prohibiting the use of water of one river basin in a neighbouring river basin;

(b) if so. whether the Government propose to amend the Act to facilitate diversion of water to help the drought prone areas to fill in water in their tanks; and

(c) if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Medical Colleges

2914. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to a study conducted by the AIIMS. majority of the country's medical colleges are imparting sub-standard medical training:

(b) if so. the details thereof: and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Such a study conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has come to notice of the Government.

(b) The methodology adopted and conclusions arrived are yet to be evaluated by the Medical Council of India;

(c) Medical Council of India conducts periodical inspection of medical colleges to assess the standards of medical education imported. Under the Indian Medical Council Act. 1956 as amended prior permission of Central Government is required for opening a new college, increase of seats and opening higher courses of study.

Four Lane N.H. in Kerala

2915. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Edappally-Kanyakumari four lane Highway will be completed in the stipulated time;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to have such a four lane Highway in the Northern part of Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the project of Kanyakumari-Bombay Highway will be taken up in the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). Edappaly to Shertalai of NH 47 is being four laned, for which the target date of completion of 14-9-97, has been revised to 14-7-1998, due to unprecedented rains and extended monsoon.

(c) to (f). Due to pacuity of funds and considering inter-se priority of four laning of National Highways in the country. no other proposal for four laning has been considered in Kerala State.

Bridge on N.H.-8 in Gujarat

2916. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problem faced by the traffic due to a bottleneck at Watrak Bridge near Kheda on N.H.-8 in Gujarat;

(b) whether there is a provision of construction of new bridge to remove this bottleneck;

(c) if so. the details thereof and in which development plan it was included; and

(d) the present status of the case?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d). The existing Watrak Bridge near Kheda on N.H.8 is catering to two lane traffic. To meet the growing traffic needs an additional Watrak Bridge on the proposed re-aligned bypass has been approved. Due to pacuity of funds, the proposal is to be taken up on Build-Operate-Transfer basis.

Loading & Unloading Process at Ports

2917. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether goods meant for exports from the country are delayed enroute to ports due to obsolete loading and unloading process;

(b) whether the Government have taken any measures to expedite movement of goods right from the facility till its final despatch to the various destinations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Harassment of Indian Labourers Abroad

2918. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any data in regard to complaints of harassment of Indian labourers working abroad;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received during the last three years;

(c) the reaction of the Government on those complaints; and

(d) the number of such Indian labourers brought back to the country during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The information regarding complaints of harassment of Indian labourers working abroad received during the years 1993 & 1994 is given in the statement enclosed. The information for the year 1995 is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Indian Missions receive, from time to time, complaints regarding harassment of Indian labourers. The Mission at first tries to resolve the difference between the aggrieved worker and the employer through a mutually acceptable solution. Wherever necessary, the cases are taken up with the concerned authorities of the foreign Government. Where no alternative or solution is possible, all assistance is given to facilitate repatriation of the aggrieved worker.

(d) The information regarding number of Indian labourers brought back to India during 1993 & 1994 is given in the statement enclosed. The information for the year 1995 is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Country	No. of Complaints of harassment of Indian Labourers working abroad		No. of Indian Labourers brought back to India	
	1993	1994	1993	1994
1. Bahrain	430	292	370	541
2. Bhutan	6	83	Nil	Nil
3. Cyprus	1	1	27	20
4. Hong Kong	Nil	6	Nil	Nil
5. Jordan	1	1	31	94
6. Kenya	2	1	2	1
7. Kuwait	2373	1334	910	395
8. Lebanon	2	6	1	2
9. Libya	5	7	Nil	Nil
10. Malaysia	Nil	3	Nil	3
11. Maldives	59	43	12	43
12. Mauritius	11	8	Nil	Nil
13. Nepal	54	42	Nil	Nil
14. Oman	803	672	89	76
15. Qatar	464	663	434	363
16. Saudi Arabia	4903	6143	13252	16547
17. Seychelles	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
18. Singapore	9	11	5	1
19. U.A.E.	170	179	2595	3036
20. Yemen (Republic of)	1	1	Nil	1

[Translation]

Projects of N.C.R.

2919. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some projects for National Capital region of Delhi related to his Ministry are lying pending with the Union Government for getting approval till date;

(b) if so, the project-wise details thereof as on date alongwith the date since when these projects are lying pending;

(c) the estimated cost of these projects;

(d) the time by which these projects will be accorded approval; and

(e) the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.